



The Law and Regulation Governing Physical Therapist Assistant Students and Interns

Business and Professions Codes

2655.75. Authorization for Assistance in Physical Therapy by Student

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent a regularly matriculated student undertaking a course of instruction in an approved physical therapist assistant education program or a student enrolled in a program of supervised clinical training under the direction of an approved physical therapist assistant education program pursuant to Section 2655.9, as part of his or her course of study, from performing physical therapy techniques in preparing the student to be approved to assist a physical therapist in his or her practice of physical therapy.

Title 16, California Code of Regulations

1398.52. Identification and Supervision of Physical Therapist Assistant Students and Interns Defined

- (a) A physical therapist assistant student is an unlicensed person rendering physical therapy services as a part of academic training pursuant to section 2655.75 of the Code and shall only be identified as a "physical therapist assistant student." A person who has completed the required academic coursework may be identified as a "physical therapist assistant intern" when rendering physical therapy services. When rendering physical therapy services, the required identification shall be clearly visible and include his or her name and working title in at least 18-point type.
- (b) The physical therapist assistant student or intern shall be supervised by a physical therapist supervisor. A physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a physical therapist supervisor may perform as a clinical instructor of the physical therapist assistant student or intern when rendering physical therapy services.
- (c) A physical therapist supervisor shall provide on site supervision of the assigned patient care rendered by the physical therapist assistant student or intern.
- (d) The physical therapist assistant student or intern shall document each treatment in the patient record, along with his or her signature. The clinical instructor shall countersign with his or her first initial and last name in the patient's record on the same day as patient related tasks were provided by the physical therapist assistant student or intern. The supervising physical therapist shall conduct a weekly case conference and document it in the patient record.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2615, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2655.9 and 2655.75, Business and Professions Code.

HISTORY

1. New section filed 12-23-2002; operative 1-22-2003 (Register 2002, No. 52).